

In 2013, Chay then became one of the lead lobbyists for the American Association for Justice as a part of the Federal Relations Counsel. Here, he led and managed advocacy efforts, managed complex legislative projects, and directly advocated civil justice issues including, intellectual property rights, national security, transportation safety, and consumer protection.

Returning to serve his home district in 2015, Chay returned to our office, where he served as Legislative Director, then a dynamic Chief of Staff until 2020. Here he brought his same hardworking attitude and political astuteness to expand and uplift Alabama's 7th Congressional District. He was not only a valued member of my staff but as a fellow native of Selma, Alabama Chay's success continues to be celebrated throughout my district. Chay serves as the embodiment of what residents from the Black Belt can accomplish when given the opportunity.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of Cachavious English, a true servant leader whose achievements have inspired a generation of future trailblazers from across the Black Belt.

BACK THE BLUE

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for our law enforcement officers.

The men and women in blue who keep our streets safe are heroes. Every day when they put on their uniform, they do so mindful that they may be called upon to put themselves in harm's way. By stepping forward and selflessly protecting us, they make everything else possible. The recent violence against our police officers is a stark reminder of the dangers of the job.

On May 31, 2021, Sergeant Dominic Vaca of the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department was killed in the line of duty. Sgt. Vaca spent 17 years protecting the Inland Empire and died a hero. He is just one of 346 officers who was shot in the line of duty in 2021.

Homicide rates in California rose 17 percent last year—on top of a 31 percent rise in 2020. I believe these increases can be in large part attributed to radical calls to defund our police and Democrats' soft on crime rhetoric.

Thankfully, most Americans see our officers for the agents of good that they are. In left-leaning states, however, like California, Democrats have enacted laws that actually make it more difficult for our law enforcement officers to do their job. This is wrong. This is dangerous.

I specifically would like to thank those that keep my community safe. Sheriff Chad Bianco; the Riverside County Sheriffs Department who serve our county and contract cities; as well as the officers of the Corona, Menifee, and Murrieta Police Departments; and all those who serve Riverside County and across the Inland Empire. I thank them for the selfless and heroic work they do.

I stand fully behind our law enforcement officers and will continue to vote for policies that support public safety. We can never repay the men and women who wear the uniform and keep our loved ones safe. But we can—and we should—always have their back.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Mentoring Month.

January 2022 marked the 20th anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an annual campaign to focus attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us can work together to increase the number of mentors to help ensure positive outcomes for our young people.

Mentoring programs across the country make our communities stronger by driving impactful relationships that increase social capital for young people and provide invaluable support networks.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, mentoring programs have stepped up to fill gaps for young people and families, connecting them with resources and ensuring that mentoring relationships continue virtually to ensure that physical distancing does not mean social disconnection.

Mentoring plays a pivotal role in career exploration and supports workplace skills by helping young people set career goals, equipping mentors with the skills needed to support the professional growth of young people, and drives positive outcomes for young people and businesses. Quality mentoring promotes healthy relationships and communication, positive self-esteem, emotional well-being, and growth of a young person and their relationships with other adults.

Students who meet regularly with their mentors are 52 percent less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and youth who face an opportunity gap, but have a mentor, are 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college than those who did not have a mentor. Youth who meet regularly with their mentors are 46 percent less likely than their peers to start using drugs and 27 percent less likely to start drinking.

National Mentoring Month is the time of year to celebrate, elevate, and encourage mentoring across our country and recruit caring adult mentors. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in this celebration and thank those individuals who are willing to step up and help shape the next generation of young Americans.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HYATTSVILLE MAYOR KEVIN WARD

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Mayor

Kevin Ward. The Hyattsville community lost a trusted leader and a strong advocate when Kevin tragically lost his life to suicide on January 22. He was just forty-four years old and left behind a husband, two sons, and a grandson. His loss is deeply felt across the community and throughout Prince George's County in my district, and the outpouring of grief is a testament to the impact he left on so many. There was no one more willing to lend an ear to a neighbor or to do whatever it took to change someone's life for the better in the community to which he gave so much of his energy, talent, and love.

Kevin saw Hyattsville as 'the jewel in the crown of Prince George's County,' and he dedicated himself to making that jewel shine brighter. In 2015, Kevin was elected to the Hyattsville City Council, and during his tenure as a Council member and later as Council President, he promoted an inclusive agenda to help Hyattsville residents thrive and get ahead. He cosponsored legislation aimed at making Hyattsville more welcoming to and inclusive of immigrants and voted to expand the municipal franchise to include non-citizen residents. Under his leadership, Hyattsville experienced unprecedented economic growth with the expansion of the Gateway Arts District and creation of new housing.

In 2020, Kevin became Interim Mayor and was elected to a full term last May. As Hyattsville's first openly gay and second Black mayor, Kevin was a trailblazer not only in representation but in the boldness of his vision. During his time in office, he was a champion for youth, affordable housing, and sustainability efforts. He worked zealously to help residents throughout the pandemic, partnering with the First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville to set up vaccination clinics and food distribution for those in need.

Kevin was more than an exemplary public servant: he was a devoted father, grandfather, and husband. His love for his husband Chad, his sons Sydney and Norman, and his grandson Elijah inspired him to work for a better future for them and all who shared their community. I offer my deepest condolences to Kevin's family, friends, and neighbors, who will surely be reflecting on his legacy for a long time to come and who have already been an enormous support to Chad, their sons, and their grandson during this very difficult time. Through the darkness of this moment, surely Kevin's memory will be the inspiring light to guide the community forward into brighter days to come. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in remembering Kevin Ward and his life of service, passion, and love for his community.

The rise in suicide among Black Americans is a challenge we as a nation cannot ignore. The pandemic has exacerbated mental health struggles for millions of Americans, and it is essential that we all do our part to reach out and help others who may be in need of assistance. I urge anyone struggling with grief or mental health challenges to reach out and seek support from the many resources available, including the National Suicide Hotline at (800) 273-8255.